

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/280,528

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

Applicant(s)

CORDERY ET AL.

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/14/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6, 14-24, 27 and 30-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 7/31/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas A. Dixon  
Primary Examiner  
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### DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant has cancelled all the rejected claims leaving only the claims indicated allowable.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 2-6, 14-24, 27, 30-32 are allowable.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per Claim 14.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step i.

As per Claim 15.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step f.

As per Claim 16.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step e.

As per Claim 17.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step i.

As per Claim 23.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step f.

As per Claim 24.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method for determining a public key of a digital postage meter with assurance that said key has been certified by a group of one or more certifying authorities as claimed in steps e-g.

As per Claim 31.

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The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of generation of a postal indicium as claimed in step .d

As per Claim 32.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verifying a digital signature of a postal indicium, including recovering a message m from a digital signature of a postal indicium as claimed in step c.

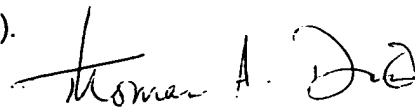
The claims which depend from the above allowed claims are allowed for the same reasons.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas A. Dixon  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3629

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